

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

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USLO PEKING

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TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: JULY 16 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. FURIOUS GROUND FIGHTING RAGED NORTH, WEST, AND SOUTH OF PP. CAMBODIAN TROOPS ATTEMPTED TO REPULSE HEAVY COMMUNIST INFILTRATION ALONG PP'S DEFENSE PERIMETER, AND ONE KHMER GENERAL CALLED THE SITUATION "VERY GRAVE". AMERICAN BOMBING INCREASED MARKEDLY. TRUCK CONVOY ARRIVED FROM BATTAMBANG DESPITE MORTAR ATTACKS ON THE WAY. A BATTALION OF KI REPORTEDLY FOUGHT FOR FOURTH DAY AGAINST NVA TROOPS PREVENTING THEM FROM DEFECTING TO GKR (NYT, WSJ, NYDN, CHITRIB, PHINQ).

2. LON NOL EXPECTED TO MAKE OFT-POSTPONED TRIP TO US FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT BY EARLY AUGUST, ACCORDING TO SOURCES CLOSE TO KHMER PRESIDENT. KI FORCES HAVE REFUSED TO BARGAIN AS LONG AS LON NOL IS HEAD OF GKR. SOME OBSERVERS FEEL DEPARTURE COULD BE FIRST STEP TOWARD BRINGING BOTH SIDES TO BARGAINING TABLE. NO WORD ON HOW LONG LON NOL WILL BE ABROAD, NOR WHO WILL RUN GOVERNMENT IN HIS ABSENCE (SUN, NYDN). KISSINGER'S MISSION TO PEKING MADE MORE DIFFICULT BY APPEAL FROM KHMER ROUGE LEADER KHIEU SAMPHAN TO GKR TROOPS TO "RISE UP AND TOPPLE THE RULE OF LON NOL". WP SAYS CALL, BROADCAST OVER RADIO PEKING YESTERDAY, REFLECTS APPARENT DECISION BY KI TO TRY TO TAKE PP BY FORCE FOR A TOTAL MILITARY VICTORY.

3. VC FREE TWO MISSING CANDEL OFFICERS AFTER 18 DAYS, WARN CANADA TO KEEP OBSERVERS OUT OF VC TERRITORY WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL. TWO SAY THEY WERE PRESSURED TO CONFESS TO BEING "FOREIGN SPIES"; THINK VC APPARENTLY BELIEVED THEY WERE AMERICANS ON INTELLIGENCE MISSION (WP). VC STATEMENT SAYS THE TWO CANDELS DROVE INTO AREA WITHOUT "PRIOR AGREEMENT", CLAIMED TO BE ICCS PERSONNEL BUT FAILED EXHIBIT NECESSARY PAPERS; WERE HELD BY AUTHORITIES PENDING VERIFICATION OF STATUS. OFFICERS SAY THEY WERE SUBJECTED TO REPEATED INTERRO-
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GATIONS AND WERE TOLD THEY WOULD BE RELEASED IF THEY SIGNED A DOCUMENT ADMITTING THAT THEY HAD ENTERED VC TERRITORY "ILLEGALLY". THEY BELIEVE "LONG SERIES OF GRUELLING MARCHES" THEY UNDERWENT WERE AN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO EVADE GVN ARTILLERY FIRE. VC HAVE MAINTAINED FOR A WEEK THAT THEY WOULD RELEASE THE TWO IF ARVN STOPPED ATTACKING THE AREA. GVN HAS DENIED CARRYING OUT SUCH ATTACKS (SUN). BUTTERFIELD (NYT) REPORTS

CANADIAN OFFICIALS PRIVATELY SUGGEST THE VC TRIED TO EXTORT CONCESSIONS FROM GVN IN RETURN FOR RELEASE. THEY ALSO FEEL THE INCIDENT UNDERSCORES WEAKNESS OF PEACE-KEEPING MACHINERY AND CONFIRMS BELIEF OF MANY ON CANDEL THAT DECISION TO WITHDRAW IS CORRECT (WSJ, NYDN, PHINQ, CHITRIB).

4. HERSH (NYT) REPORTS SEN. HUGHES HAS ASKED FOR EXPANDED ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE HEARINGS INTO THE CONDUCT OF THE VIETNAM AIR WAR BECAUSE OF RENEWED EVIDENCE OF SYSTEMATIC VIOLATION OF MILITARY LAW IN FALSIFICATION OF ORDERS FOR B-52 RAIDS IN CAMBODIA WHICH WERE KEPT SECRET BY THE ADMINISTRATION. FORMER AF MAJOR KNIGHT SAID THAT HE DELIBERATELY FALSIFIED THE REPORTS OF AT LEAST TWO DOZEN SECRET B-52 MISSIONS OVER CAMBODIA WHILE SERVING WITH SAC IN VIETNAM FROM FEB- TO APRIL 1970. KNIGHT SAYS RAIDS WERE COORDINATED BETWEEN 7TH AF, 8TH AF (GUAM), AND MACV, AND THAT SIMILAR FALSELY REPORTED RAIDS WERE STAGED AT LEAST SINCE TET 1968. PENTAGON SPOKESMAN REFUSED TO COMMENT ON CHARGES. SIHANOUK HAS WIDELY BEEN REPORTED AS AWARE OF THE SECRET BOMBINGS AT THE TIME AND ACQUIESCING IN THEM TO LIMIT NVN INFLUENCE IN CAMBODIA (CSM). FREDERICKSON (WP) ADDS THAT CHIEF COUNSEL FOR THE COMMITTEE SAID HE KNEW OF "NO PLANS AT THIS POINT FOR A FULL FORMAL INVESTIGATION" INTO THE BOMBING.

5. OKA (CSM) REPORTS FROM NHA TRANG THAT AMERICAN AID OFFICIALS THERE CHARGE US AID FUNDS ARE BEING WASTED ON ILL-PLANNED RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS FOR HIGHLAND TRIBESMEN DISPLACED BY LAST YEAR'S COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE. THEY CITE RESETTLEMENT PROJECT AT PLEI UNCLASSIFIED

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M'NANG AS A PRIME EXAMPLE. ON THE WHOLE, AMERICAN AID OFFICIALS GIVE GOOD MARKS TO VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS ENGAGED IN REFUGEE RELIEF AND RESETTLEMENT. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF DEADLINE FROM SAIGON - ALL REFUGEES ARE TO BE RESETTLED BY THE END OF THE YEAR - PLEI M'NANG IS BEING SETTLED AT THE WRONG TIME OF YEAR AND BY TOO MANY PEOPLE. MAJOR PROBLEM, THOUGH, IS SHORTAGE OF READILY ACCESSIBLE LAND. WITHOUT LAND, RESETTLERS CANNOT BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT, AND THEN WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN US AID RUNS OUT?

JAPAN

6. TREATMENT OF SEC. ROGERS' ARRIVAL IN TOKYO FOR NINTH ECONCOM, ACCOMPANIED BY SEC. DENT (UPI, PHINQ),

IS PUNCTUATED BY REPORTS OF "DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT" BY GOJ OVER ABSENCE OF SCHULTZ, BUTZ AND STEIN. AP SAYS THEIR LAST-MINUTE CANCELLATIONS "EVOKED DISSATISFACTION AMONG THE JAPANESE" WHO FEEL "THAT THEIR DEALINGS WITH THE US WERE DOWN-GRADED ON OTHER OCCASIONS RECENTLY." AICHI IS SAID BY ONE TOKYO PAPER TO BE RELUCTANT TO HOLD FACE-TO-FACE TALKS WITH SCHULTZ'S SUBSTITUTE, VOLCKER (WSJ, NYDN). WSJ DISPATCH SAYS CONFERENCE "IS LIKELY TO SUBDUED, WITH MANY JAPANESE FEELING THEY WERE TREATED LIGHTLY BY THE ABSENCE" OF HIGH US OFFICIALS.

7. JOFC'S CULLISON, IN TOKYO, CITES JAPANESE CABINET MINISTERS "SHOWING CONSIDERABLE DISAPPOINTMENT" OVER MAKE-UP OF US DELEGATION, AND CONTENTS IT IS NOW DOUBTFUL WHETHER JAPANESE PARTICIPANTS WILL INCLUDE" ALL OF THOSE SCHEDULED. CULLISON ADDS THAT OBVIOUS SIGNS OF JAPANESE DISPLEASURE EXIST NOTWITHSTANDING JAPANESE CABINET MINISTERS ANNOUNCING THEY "UNDERSTAND" SITUATION AND APPRECIATE REASONS FOR LAST-MINUTE CHANGES. WP NOTES THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL EXPRESSION OF JAPANESE DISAPPOINTMENT.

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8. AP DISPATCHES OBSERVE THAT SECRETARY APOLOGIZED FOR ABSENCE OF OTHER TOP RANKING OFFICIALS; HE SD THEY WERE DETAINED TO WORK ON PRESIDENT'S PHASE UNCLASSIFIED

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4 ECONOMIC PROGRAM, AND ARE ABLY REPRESENTED AT MEETING BY DEPUTIES PREPARED TO SPEAK WITH FULL AUTHORITY.

9. IN SPEECH BEFORE MEETING, SECRETARY URGED JAPAN TO REVIEW ITS DECISION NOT TO JOIN US-INSPIRED ASSOCIATION OF OIL-USING NATIONS, PROPOSED THAT GOJ AND US CO-OPERATE WITH SOVIET IN DEVELOPMENT OF OIL AND GAS SOURCES IN SIBERIA, ENDORSED TANAKA'S PLAN FOR PEACE CONFERENCE OF ASIAN AND PACIFIC NATIONS, AND SAID THAT STEPS TAKEN BY JAPAN AND US TO BETTER RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW AND PEKING "WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT OUR FIRM SECURITY TIES" (WP).

10. GOJ AGREES TO REMOVE QUOTAS ON COMPUTER IMPORTS SOMETIME IN 1975, AND FOREIGNERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO BUY UP TO 50 PERCENT INTEREST IN DOMESTIC ELECTRONIC COMPUTER FIRMS AFTER JULY 1974 AND UP TO 100 PERCENT INTEREST AFTER NOV. 1975 (WSJ).

11. JAMESON (LAT, JULY 53) REPORTS THAT AGRICULTURAL MINISTER SAKURAUCHI, SPEAKING AT JAPAN NATIONAL

PRESS CLUB THURSDAY NIGHT, SAID THE US, IN SLASHING SOYBEAN EXPORT CONTRACTS BY 50, HAD COMBINED NEGLECT OF JAPAN WITH PERSONAL SNUB TO HIM. SAKURAUCHI ADDED THAT US CABINET SECRETARIES ARRIVING FOR ECONCOM "WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION" TO RE-NEW LONGSTANDING US DEMANDS THAT JAPAN ABOLISH ITS REMAINING 23 AGRICULTURAL IMPORT QUOTAS, "HAVING JUST RESTRICTED THEIR OWN EXPORTS." SAKURAUCHI SPECIFICALLY CRITICIZED AMB. INGERSOLL FOR FAILING TO RESPOND TO REPRESENTATION HE MADE IN MEETING WITH ENVOY JUNE 29 ASKING SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR JAPAN CONCERNING SOYBEAN RESTRICTIONS. HE CHARGED INGERSOLL HAS NEVER REPLIED, BUT SENT LOWER-RANKING EMBASSY ECONOMIC MINISTER TO AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY TO OFFER EXPLANATION OF US ACTIONS TO CIVIL SERVICE LEVEL VICE MINISTER.

12. REISCHAUER INDICATED ADMINISTRATION FOR SERIOUS DETERIORATION IN US-JAPANESE RELATIONS, IN FRIDAY ADDRESS TO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS IN TOKYO. HE UNCLASSIFIED

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DEPLORED "SHOCKS" US HAS GIVEN JAPAN RECENTLY, INCLUDING "ABSOLUTE FOLLY," IN SOYBEAN EXPORT CUT, TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT IMPORTANCE OF SOYBEANS AS STAPLE OF JAPANESE DIET. REISCHAUER CHARGED BALANCE-OF-POWER POLICIES STILL DIRECT US THINKING, AND CALLED FOR 20TH CENTURY "WORLD COMMUNITY" POLICIES AMONG US, JAPAN AND EUROPE HINTED AT BY KISSINGER'S "NEW ATLANTIC CHARTER." CSM'S POND, IN TOKYO, DECLARES THIS IS MESSAGE REISCHAUER "IS PREACHING WHENEVER HE GETS THE CHANCE." CHINA

13. CODEL ENDS 2-WEEK CHINA VISIT WITH CONTRASTING COMMENTS ON WHAT THEY SAW AND FUTURE OF SINO-US RELATIONS. REP. MORGAN SAYS HE THINKS THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE GROWING CLOSER, MCGEE FEELS THEY ARE MOVING IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS -- THE CHINESE "WITH MASS MOBILIZATION AND EVERYBODY SYNCHRONIZED." MAGNUSON EXPECTS SOME DEVELOPMENTS SOON ON OPENING AIR SERVICE TO CHINA, AND SUGGESTS TRADE PROBLEM "IS SIMPLY ONE OF CREDITS" OR INSTALLMENT BUYING THAT PEKING WILL AGREE TO. BUT MORGAN SAYS "SPECTACULAR RISE IN TRADE WITH CHINA IN THE LAST 8 MONTHS SEEMS ABOUT TO LEVEL OFF. IT WILL BE MANY YEARS BEFORE THE CHINA TRADE APPROACHES OUR BUSINESS WITH JAPAN OR CANADA." SPARKMAN CONCLUDES THAT IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS ABOUT CAMBODIA, CHINESE "WANTED US TO UNDERSTAND HOW FULLY THEY SUPPORT" SIHANOUK (AP NYDN, SUN).

14. USDA REPORTS MORE THAN \$500,000 WORTH OF US TOBACCO SOLD TO CHINA, BUT AVOIDS ANY FLAT REVERSAL OF EARLIER SKEPTICISM ABOUT PROSPECTS THAT PRC SOON WILL RESUME REGULAR MAJOR PURCHASES OF US LEAF (WP; AP, NYDN).

15. NCNA CONTENDS PRC SURPASSED ITS INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION TARGETS FOR FIRST HALF OF 1973 WITH "RECORD OUTPUT." CLAIMS PRODUCTION IN MORE THAN 80 MAJOR CATEGORIES, INCLUDING STEEL, ROLLED STEEL, SODA ASH, SYNTHETIC AMMONIA, MACHINE TOOLS, YARN AND CLOTH EXCEEDED ANNUAL STATE QUOTAS BY 50 (UPI, UNCLASSIFIED

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NYDN).

PHILIPPINES

16. GOP WARNS THAT MEMBERS OF CITIZEN ASSEMBLIES WHO FAIL TO VOTE IN JULY 27 REFERENDUM WITHOUT VALID EXCUSE CAN BE IMPRISONED UP TO 6 MONTHS (WSJ).

17. DURDIN (NYT) IN MANILA, IN GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC ARTICLE, SEES MARCOS' LAND REFORM PROGRAM MAKING PROGRESS BUT FACING MAJOR ROADBLOCK IN FORM OF TENS OF THOUSANDS OF SMALL LANDHOLDERS WHO WILL LOSE SMALL PLOTS IF RURAL PROPERTIES THEY OWN ARE BROUGHT WITHIN SCOPE OF PLAN.

AUSTRALIA

18. SHIP LINES ON AUSTRALIA-NORTH AMERICAN SEA ROUTES REPORT THAT RATE DISPUTE BETWEEN CONTAINER AND CONVENTIONAL VESSEL PERATORS HAS BEEN SETTLED (JOFC, PANITZ).

KOREA

19. NK CLAIMED SUNDAY THAT ROK PROPOSAL TO ALLOW VISITS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH TO PAY RESPECTS AT ANCESTRAL TOMBS THIS AUTUMN IS EMPTY TALK AND DELAYING TACTIC (AP, PHINQ).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

20. POND, (CSM), IN TOKYO FINDS ECONCOM SESSION "CLOUDED BY A WIDELY HELD FEEING HERE THAT WASHINGTON IS SLIGHTING THE JAPANESE, NOT TAKING JAPAN'S NEED TOO SERIOUSLY." ADDS THAT "THE MOST IMPORTANT" US CABINET MEMBERS, AS FAR AS JAPANESE ARE CONCERNED, ARE THE ABSENT SHULTZ AND STEIN -- "THE 2 PEOPLE

WHO COULD SPEAK WITH AUTHORITY ON WHAT THE JAPANESE MOST WANT TO HEAR ABOUT": US ECONOMIC POLICY AND PROSPECTS IN DOLLAR DEFENSE, INFLATION CONTROL, AND AGRICULTURE. FURTHERMORE, BUTZ "IS THE ONE AMERICAN OFFICIAL WHO COULD SPEAK WITH AUTHORITY
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ON JAPAN'S MOST RECENT ECONOMIC CONCERN: ASSURANCE OF THOSE FOOD EXPORTS TO JAPAN." POND ADDS THAT DENT "DOES NOT PULL THE SAME WEIGHT IN POLICYMAKING AS THOSE WHO DID NOT COME. MR. ROGERS, AS THE JAPANESE WELL KNOW, DOES NOT MAKE AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY, AND IS FURTHER DOWNGRADED JUST NOW BY WEEKEND REPORTS (NOT DENIED BY THE WHITE HOUSE) THAT HE WILL SOON BE REPLACED" AT DOS BY KISSINGER. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, PROSPECTS FOR "INTENDED HIGHLEVEL DIALOGUE ARE DIM." CITES YOMIURI'S QUOTING JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES AS SAYING ECONCOM WOULD NOW BE SCALED DOWN TO "DEPUTY-LEVEL MEETING."

21. TRUMBULL (NYT), IN TOKYO, FINDS THE JAPANESE "ESPECIALLY DISTRESSED" BY BUTZ'S ABSENCE FROM ECONROM TALKS, FOR THEY HAD HOPED TO DRAW FIRM ASSURANCE THAT US WILL GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO JAPAN'S NEEDS WHEN ALLOCATING EXPORTS OF FARM GOODS. PEPPER (SUN) EXPECTS JAPAN, AT ECONCOM SESSIONS, TO PRESS US FOR INCREASED EXPORTS, PARTICULARLY OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, SUCH AS SOYBEANS.

22. CLAYTON FRITCHEY SAYS THAT BY GOING ALONG WITH CONGRESS ON AUG. 15, PRES. AVOIDED AN IMMEDIATE SHOWDOWN; GOT A BREATHER FOR MORE, BUT PROBABLY FUTILE, NEGOTIATIONS; AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, GAVE HIMSELF TIME TO SET UP CONGRESS FOR BLAME IF CAMBODIA FALLS, AS SEEMS INEVITABLE. STORIES ARE LEAKED THAT "DIPLOMATIC IRONS ARE IN THE FIRE" AND THAT "THIS IS NOT AN ADMINISTRATION FLIM-FLAM JOB". YET SIHANOUK DENIES ANY NEGOTIATIONS. THE WASHINGTON LINE IS THAT NIXON AND KISSINGER ARE SECRETLY DEALING WITH MOSCOW, HANOI, AND PEKING TO BRING SIHANOUK AND RED KHMERS TO THE BARGAINING TABLE. AS AUG. 15 DRAWS NEAR AMERICANS WILL BE TOLD OF "EXTREMELY DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS", AND LAIRD WARNS THAT THE PRES. MAY CALL FOR AN EXTENSION. IN PAST THE THREAT OF BEING CHARGED WITH JEOPARDIZING "PEACE WITH HONOR" HAS BEEN ENOUGH TO KEEP CONGRESS IN LINE. BUT NOW IT APPEARS THE PRES. HAS CRIED WOLF TOO OFTEN.

23. WSJ SAYS THAT WHILE IT EARNESTLY HOPES SOME SOLUTION TO THE CAMBODIAN CONFLICT CAN BE FOUND
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BEFORE AUG5, NEVERTHELESS IT FINDS THE CUT-OFF
A COMFORT. THE COMPROMISE WAS A HIGHLY RESPONSIBLE
RESOLUTION OF THE DISPUTE BETWEEN CONGRESS AND THE
PRES. BOMBING MADE SOME SENSE AS AN EFFORT TO TIE
UP LOOSE ENDS OF INDOCHINA CEASE-FIRE, BUT IT MADE
LITTLE SENSE AS AN EFFORT TO PROP UP THE GKR INDEFINITELY.
IN CAMBODIA THE BEST THAT CAN BE HOPED FOR IS NEBULOUS
OUTCOME, PERHAPS THE RETURN OF SIHANOUK AS HEAD
OF A COALITION WITH HEAVY COMMUNIST REPRESENTATION.
CAMBODIA IS REASONABLY IMPORTANT AS POTENTIAL BASE
AREA FOR RENEWED COMMUNIST ASSAULT ON SVN. YET
SAIGON MUST ULTIMATELY STAND OR FALL ON ITS OWN.
WSJ FINDS NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO SUPPORT THE PRINCIPLE
OF WITHDRAWING COMBAT SUPPORT FROM THE CAMBODIANS,
EVEN IF IT MEANS GKR'S FALL. CAMBODIA IN COMMUNIST
HANDS WOULD REPRESENT A SUCCESSFUL AGRESSION AGAINST
A NEIGHBOUR THAT POSES NO THREAT TO NVN, AND THE
SPREAD OF ONE OF THE MOST REPRESSIVE POLITICAL SOCIAL
SYSTEMS IN WORLD HISTORY. IT WOULD BE A SHAME,
BUT WOULD NOT JUSTIFY RISKS OF INVOLVING AMERICAN
FORCES.

24. GARRY WILLS (PHINQ) ACCUSES CONGRESS OF MOVING
NOT ONLY TARDILY BUT IN COWARDLY WAY TO END ILLEGAL
BOMBING IN CAMBODIA. CONGRESS PERMITTED NIXON TO
RAVAGE CAMBODIA FOR ANOTHER FIVE WEEKS OR SO,
A LAST PRESIDENTIAL FLING AT DESTRUCTION AND DEATH,
RATHER THAN MAKE HIM "COLD TURKEY" AS HE CAME OFF
HIS KILLING STREAK. THIS LAST SPASM HAS TO BE INDULGED,
MORE AS A CONCESSION TO THE PRESIDENT THAN FOR ANY
TACTICAL PURPOSE. THE DYING ARE NOT AMERICANS,
AND THEY ARE NOT EVEN WHITE. WILLS HOLDS THAT NUNS
AND PRIESTS ARRESTED FOR PRAYING IN WHITE HOUSE
ARE BEST FRIENDS THIS COUNTRY HAS IN ITS DAYS OF
SHAME AND INFAMY. RUSH

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